

Chrono

19 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing by Mr. Carl Duckett, DD/S&T, of Subcommittee on Research and Development, Senate Armed Services Committee, 17 March 1969

1. On 17 March 1969, I accompanied Mr. Carl Duckett, DD/S&T, who briefed the above Subcommittee on Soviet research and development and related matters. The session lasted from 0910 to 1050 hours. The room, 224A Old Senate Office Building, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The briefing and discussion included material up to and including Top Secret. No transcript was made.

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2. Present from the Subcommittee were:

Thomas J. McIntyre (D., N.H.), Chairman
Stephen M. Young (D., Ohio)
George Murphy (R., Calif.)
Edward W. Brooke (R., Mass.)
John Stennis, Chairman of the full Armed Services Committee

3. Present from the Subcommittee staff was:

Colonel Everett Harper

4. Present from the Agency were:

Carl Duckett
John M. Maury

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5. At the outset, Senator Brooke expressed to the Chairman his disappointment that a member of his staff could not be present, explaining that on many matters of this kind he was too busy to devote the necessary time himself and would prefer to rely on a competent staff assistant. The Chairman said he sympathized with this view, but Senator Stennis had ruled that only members were eligible for briefings of this sensitivity, and that the matter should be taken up with Senator Stennis.

6. Mr. Duckett then briefed the Subcommittee on:

a. Organization and Control of the Soviet Research and Development Program.

b. Soviet Scientific and Technical Manpower.

c. Historical Trends and Current Cost of Soviet Research and Development for Weapons Systems.

d. Soviet Approaches in Research and Development, Particularly Stressing Practices that Differ from those in the U. S.

e. Specific Research and Development Projects: Missile Technology, Nuclear Weapons, Naval Weapons Systems, Aircraft and Aeronautical Research, Laser Developments, Computer Technology, Radar Developments, and Space Program.

7. Significant questions and answers thereto were roughly as follows:

a. In response to questions about the nature, reliability and adequacy of the information on which Agency conclusions are based, Mr. Duckett explained in general terms



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b. In response to Senator Young's questions regarding the importance of on-sight inspection for verification purposes, Mr. Duckett expressed the personal view that technical coverage was reasonably satisfactory so far as most physical facilities were concerned, but might prove inadequate for Soviet mobile missile launchers.

c. In response to a question from the Chairman regarding our confidence in our intelligence, Mr. Duckett explained that we have a high degree of confidence in our information about systems already deployed, but far less confidence regarding the follow-on systems which are still in the planning stage.

d. During the discussion, Senator Stennis suggested that, in view of time limitations, it might be desirable for us to provide the Subcommittee with written answers to a questionnaire prepared by the Subcommittee staff. Senator Young strongly endorsed this, commenting that since he had his hands full representing 10 million constituents, he was in the habit of pondering more weighty matters at home in the evenings. Senator Brooke also favored written answers to certain questions in which he was interested, including the relative costs of the Soviet and U.S. ABM efforts to date. Colonel Harper at this point suggested that in the proposed written responses we should carefully separate classified information and unclassified information, pointing out that much of the classified information was extremely sensitive. I noted that even in the case of unclassified material it was extremely important that there be no attribution to the Agency. Senator Young volunteered the remark that he would of course be very careful about any classified matters, since it "made his blood boil" to sometimes read classified information in the newspapers.

8. All those present seemed thoroughly impressed with Mr. Duckett's briefing and Senators Stennis, McIntyre and Young, in particular, spoke of it with enthusiasm.

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